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PHOTO INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

RUMANIAN/UKRAINIAN-MOLDAVIAN BORDER STUDY

GP/I-1

(Project 72.52)

9 November 1953

File Copy

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Research & Reports

[redacted]

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Declass Review NIMA/DoD

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Security Information

Photo Intelligence Division: Project 72.52
The Rumanian/Moldavian SSR - Ukrainian SSR Border Zone:
Evaluation of Maps for Field Purposes from Aerial Photographs

The latest available aerial photography was compared with maps selected by the Geography Division, ORR, to be the best available for general field purposes. 25X6

Stereoscopic vertical photography, at scales varying from 1:13,000 to 1:45,000, consisting of [redacted] dating from the summer of 1944, provides coverage of the entire border zone. That used covers a strip from 1 to 3 miles wide on each side along the border. 25X6

The maps [redacted] Series. Of these, [redacted] 25X6 reprints of Rumanian Institutul Geografic Militar series of 1939 based on maps and other data dating 1926 - 1938. The other sheets are [redacted] 25X6 compilations dating 1944 based on earlier Rumanian maps and supplementary data to 1944. Five of these have utilized aerial photography with the following dates: [redacted] 25X1D Galata). 25X1D

Notwithstanding certain limitations, as follows, the maps appear to be adequate for general field purposes. The photography of [redacted] shows changed meanders along the Prut River and cleared areas along the river where the maps show woods. Many areas, particularly near the mouths of the Danube in the vicinity of Chilia Nova and Valcov, indicated on the maps as swamps and marshes, were used for crops in [redacted] 25X1D Additional houses and farms are to be noted along the river banks. In general, cultural features are poorly defined. Curiously, the sheets which include corrections from aerial photography, while for the most part among the most accurate, indicate minor attention was paid to details

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of settlement and land use changes, and either poor exploitation of the photography or substantial changes in the vegetative pattern between 1941 - 1942 and 1954. None of the sheets indicate the pattern and location of cultivated fields.

An annotated set of the photographs showing discrepancies with map information, together with plotted indices of the photography, is deposited with the Geography Division, OSR. Notes on salient features pertaining to the individual sheets follow.

25X6 [redacted]

1. This sheet is accurate along the 1½ miles of border represented.

25X6 [redacted] 25X1D

1. The stream and village pattern accurately reflects [redacted] photography, but minor roads, trails, and several isolated houses are not shown.

2. The map incorrectly plots a railroad under construction from Lipcani-Targ south. The photographs indicate that the railroad will branch from the existing railroad ½ mile west of Lipcani-Targ and lead in a SE direction to Radauti. From Radauti in a South-westerly direction the construction is correctly shown. [redacted] 25X1D

25X1D [redacted] extensive cut and fill operations had been nearly completed, but there were no bridges over the roads and rivers, no rails had been laid, and no activity was apparent.

3. North of Radauti the Prut River has cut across a meander since the map was drawn.

25X6 [redacted]

1. A village of 35 houses located ¼ mile south of Dumeny is not shown.

2. There is a large clearing in the woods ½ mile east of Stanca. There are also clearings near the Prut River 3 miles SE of Bobotesti.

3. The Prut River has altered its course slightly to form an additional meander 2 miles SW of Kuban.

25X6 [redacted]

1. A heavily wooded area on the Moldavian side of the Prut River opposite Santa Maria shows on the map as cleared land.

25X1D 2. [redacted] there were several trenches and signs of military activity along the Rumanian side of the Prut River in the vicinity of Santa Maria and Durnesti.

25X6 [redacted]

1. An excellent map.

25X6 [redacted]

1. Two bridges across the Prut River, one at Scopaeni and the other just north of Tutora, are not shown on the map.

2. The map indicates a clearing, which is now wooded, on the Moldavian side of the Prut River one miles west of Salageni.

3. The road pattern is inaccurate in the vicinity of Rasesti.

4. There are several new meanders and cut-offs in the Prut River.

25X1D

f. The area in the vicinity of Periprava, which is on the Rumanian side of the river almost opposite Valcov, is incorrectly mapped. [redacted] Periprava was a village of approximately 100 houses. There was no bridge from Periprava west to Cernofca Island. The map shows roads on Cernofca Island which did not exist and the road system around Periprava is inaccurate.

25X6

[redacted]

i. The stream pattern is accurate in the vicinity of the 5 miles of the border that falls on this sheet but there are several small isolated houses and farms along the banks of the river that are not indicated.

k. A new road extends from Sfistovca in an eastern direction across the marshes to the bank of the Danube River.

[redacted]

1. An addition of 150-200 new houses SW of Vairisoaia has almost doubled the size of that village.

2. The village of Leova has expanded to the north with the addition of approximately 100 new houses.

3. There are a few changes in the meanders of the Prut River.

25X6

[redacted]

1. An accurate map, except that the area along the Ukrainian side of the Danube River, 5 miles SE of Reni, has more houses and farms than the map indicates.

25X6

[redacted]

1. This map is fairly accurate in the vicinity of the 10 miles of the border that cuts across the NE corner of the map.

2. The photographs show a bridge from the town of Isaccea to Isaccea Island.

3. A road extends across Isaccea Island from the bridge to a wharf on the Danube River.

25X6

Secret

[redacted]

1. The stream and road pattern is fairly accurate, but the vegetation pattern has changed considerably. Along the Rumanian side of the Danube River from Lascar Catargiu to Pardina, and also along the Ukrainian side of the Danube River NW of Pardina, there are several houses and farms where the map indicates only swamps.

25X6

[redacted]

1. The stream and road pattern is accurate, but the vegetation pattern is considerably in error. Caslita Island and many of the other islands in the Danube River SW of Chilia Noua in [redacted] were primarily used for cultivated crops, whereas the map shows these islands as almost totally marshland. Likewise, the map indicates a large swampy area NE of Chilia Noua that the photographs show in use for cultivated crops.

25X1D

25X6

[redacted]

1. This sheet is highly inaccurate in the vicinity of the border.

2. The major stream pattern is correct, but several minor streams and channels are inaccurately mapped.

3. A village of 30 houses is located approximately 7 miles NW of Valcov.

4. Approximately 100 houses and farms are located along the north bank of the river 8 miles NW of Valcov.

5. There is a village of 50 houses 1 mile SE of Valcov on the western tip of Insel Pat Lai.

6. There are many scattered houses and farms along the banks of the various branches of the river.

Secret

7. The area in the vicinity of Periprava, which is on the Rumanian side of the river almost opposite Valcov, is incorrectly mapped.

25X1D

[redacted] Periprava was a village of approximately 100 houses. There was no bridge from Periprava west to Cernofca Island. The map shows roads on Cernofca Island which did not exist and the road system around Periprava is inaccurate.

25X6

[redacted]

1. The stream pattern is accurate in the vicinity of the 8 miles of the border that falls on this sheet but there are several small isolated houses and farms along the banks of the river that are not indicated.

2. A new road extends from Sfistovca in an eastern direction across the marshes to the bank of the Danube River.